

## Comments for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) by Rick and Theresa Fox

- 1) Record keeping is not necessary for US producers on either voluntary or mandatory COOL, unless they import livestock or produce. The law is stating COUNTRY of origin, not farm or ranch of origin. The law also states that mandatory identification CANNOT be used to implement COOL. Produce and meats are already labeled as to what country the product is from. Keep the label on throughout the process all the way to the retail counter. Live imported animals should be identified at the border and documentation should follow the animal for his/her life and then throughout the processing, to the retail counter and finally to the consumer's table.
- 2) The accuracy of USDA's numbers are greatly exaggerated. We know of no producer that pays or receives \$25/ hour for labor. We would also make an educated guess that no retailer or processor pays \$50/ hour for any labor.
- 3) Impose strict penalties and fines for importers who don't obey the law. Give \$50,000 fines on the first offense, and take away their import license for 5 years on the second offense and the third strike they are out forever.
- 4) Ear tags can be cut out easily. Computers are great, but only as great as the person using them. Put a hot iron jaw brand on all imported live animals. C for Canada, M for Mexico, A for Australia, etc.
- 5) Implement the law the way it was intended. If you cannot understand the way it is supposed to be implemented, go back to Congress ( the LAWMAKERS) and ask what they meant. Do not try to reinvent the wheel, keep it simple and not burdensome on the US producers. This law makes sense for AMERICA with the Homeland Security. Remember this about the food you eat yourselves.

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